

A
Scientist's Viewpoint
of the
Virgin Birth



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Published by
RESEARCH SCIENCE BUREAU, Inc.
5141 Angeles Mesa Drive Los Angeles, California

3-27-31

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INTRODUCTION

I am a Scientist, and a CHRISTIAN. I was a devotee of Science before I became a Christian, and remained the same eager student of Science after my conversion to Christ. I recognize the difficulty the student has in reconciling the differences of the two, but I will always believe the difficulties are more imaginary than real. The modern student is prone to swallow any and everything that is said in the name of Science, and some of the queerest and weirdest ideas are held to be Science, and so infallible. No man can even begin to harmonize all the theories of men of Science with the lasting truths of the eternal Book, but if we remember that a Science is "A correlated body of ABSOLUTE knowledge," a great many difficulties will never arise. They say that every ten years the scientific knowledge of man has to be entirely revised, and I guess the charge is true. So rapidly do we learn and so fast do we pass on from fact to fact, that the so-called "knowledge" of today is disproved by the new discoveries of tomorrow. We live and learn. I never state a scientific truth in dogmatic terms, for I am sensible of the fact that although I may hold it for the truth today, tomorrow Science will move on and hold the very opposite.

But we see none of this vacillating in the Bible! It merely says: "Thus says the Lord," and leaves it to Time to prove. I have searched it from beginning to end for scientific error, and have found none. So I look with real FAITH IN THE CREDIBILITY OF ITS EVIDENCE at the matter in hand. WAS THE VIRGIN BIRTH OF JESUS CHRIST A BIOLOGICAL MIRACLE?

A SCIENTIST'S VIEWPOINT

of the

VIRGIN BIRTH OF JESUS CHRIST

FOREWORD

There is only one way a Scientist can arrive at an opinion on any matter under consideration, and that is by a careful, painstaking, and impartial analysis of whatever evidence may be available. No evidence may be disregarded, none may be slighted, and all must be tested by **KNOWN AND ACCEPTED STANDARDS**. The opinions of others must not sway the investigator, but he must proceed **just on the evidence at hand**.

I have tried to approach the study of the Virgin birth of Jesus Christ from that angle. The evidences were all gathered from the only acceptable source and carefully considered. The result you have here in your hand now.

When I enter my laboratory to study biology or observe the phenomenon of mitosis I do not take a pick or telescope, nor do I use rocks or dead matter. I am compelled by the nature of the case to use a microscope, and study only those cells of living things that

reproduce by mitosis. If I am searching for the fossils of the Eocene or Cretaceous strata, I use a pick and dig.

So when I came to this most interesting study, I had the use of records of the case, and I used them all, whether compiled by friend or foe. The Biography of the Man was my chief source of detailed information. Some hours of joyful study were the result, and the mind trained to weigh and consider evidence arrived at the only possible conclusion, that He was VIRGIN BORN.

CHAPTER I

THE STUDENTS' OBJECTIONS

As I stand before the many different groups of students to speak of the two great verities, Science and God, I find there is today a general tendency to reject the old Christian doctrine of a Virgin born Savior. This attitude of the student's mind rises largely from ignorance of the matter, for I find very few even among our college bodies who are qualified to have an opinion: they never studied the evidence. Yet they speak right out against the idea, and when asked for reasons for their disbelief, usually resort to these two:

"The Virgin Birth of Christ demands a BIOLOGICAL MIRACLE," or

"This same story, or almost the same, is in every heathen faith."

As witness the Greek and Roman myths. So I want to deal at the outset with

THE FIRST OBJECTION.

Was the birth of Jesus Christ a biological miracle? I turn to the only source of evidence we have today, the Bible. I am lost in wonder and amazement at the very outset, for I cannot accept the evidence unless it is tested and proved true. And I find the Bible has been tested and proven as no other earthly thing has been tried. It is of vast antiquity; but has never

changed. It has gone through the acid bath of antagonistic criticism, and come out unchanged. Avalanches of doubt and tempests of unbelief have swept over it, but it rode triumphantly on the crest of the waves and faltered not in a single truth. **How I wish my beloved science had that same unchanging face!** One thing I find it difficult to do, is to defend my faith in Science against the charge of constantly shifting ground.

There are two biological miracles recorded in the Bible, and I, as a Scientist, believe them both. But then, the reproduction of kind is always a biological miracle. What man understands the great mystery of mitosis? In the cells of every living species there are unexplored worlds, and one of the most mysterious of these is the amazing fact of the chromatin as a means of channel of inheritance. If the somatic (individual) cell is analyzed and microscopically divided, it is found to contain a certain fixed number of tiny thread-like particles called "chromosomes." The number is fixed and never varies, except in the reproducing cells. In the ova of the female and the spermatazoa of the male, the somatic count of chromosomes is halved, so that when these two cells unite in the beauty of the mitotic pattern, each bringing half of the characteristic species count, the somatic number is kept inviolate in the new creature formed. **THIS IS THE PLAN GOD HAS USED ALL THROUGH THE AGES** to keep the species fixed, and the count never varies. **THIS IS A BIOLOGICAL MIRACLE.**

Here is an unfathomable mystery in the human family: A female reproducing cell (the ovum) is joined by the extremely microscopic male cell (the spermatozoon) **AND FROM SOME UNKNOWN, UN-**

GUESSED SOURCE, BY AN UNKNOWN AND UNGUESSED PROCESS, draws from somewhere twenty-six trillion other cells, AND FORMS THE NEW YOUNG OF ITS KIND!

YOU SAY IT'S NATURE, AND I SAY IT'S GOD: BUT WE BOTH SAY IT'S MIRACULOUS!

What is a miracle? We use that word so glibly; but how few of us have any adequate conception of what it means? To the untutored savage in the wilds of Africa a human voice coming out of a box is a miracle and an object of superstitious veneration. To the native of far-off China, the radio is a miracle and an object of suspicion, being most probably the action of some foreign devil caged in the depth of the weird apparatus! But to us who are familiar with these marvels they are manifestations of known and controlled natural law; so let us say that a miracle may be the OPERATION OF AN UNKNOWN HIGHER NATURAL LAW not yet grasped by human discernment.

I said a moment ago that there were two biological miracles in the Bible. They are both mentioned in the first Corinthian epistle, chapter fifteen, verse forty-five. ". . . The first Adam was made a living soul, the last Adam was made a life-giving spirt." The first biological miracle was the creation of the first man, Adam. Lost in the dimness of the mists of antiquity is the origin of the human race. Perhaps no mind will ever think back to the Day of Origin and place it accurately in terms of years. Disregarding the scientific controversy over the antiquity of man, he first appeared on the earth when GOD MADE HIM, A SPECIAL CREATION. The creation of Eve, while it was a special creation, was not

in the same class, for she was made, according to the account, from living matter already in existence. So while it may sound improbable to those who have learning without faith, it still is not a biological impossibility. Through this pair the reproduction of the human family began, by the process of mitosis. Successive generations were born over ages of time, then

THE SECOND BIOLOGICAL MIRACLE OCCURRED. God made another man. As Adam was a special creation, so was Christ. As Adam had no father in the flesh, so Jesus had none. As there was no precedent for Adam, so there was none for Jesus. The first Adam came inexplicably from the creative word of Deity, the last Adam came the same way. So when you say the Virgin birth of Jesus Christ demanded a biological miracle, I reply that the evidence shows there was one, and set the evidence before you in these pages.

The first mention made of this fact in the Book of Evidences is found in Genesis, chapter three, verse fifteen. I am frank to say this puzzled me, as it contained an unscientific grouping of words. After the recorded sin of the first pair and their consequent rejection and expulsion from the garden which was their home, a promise was made of a coming Redeemer in these words:

“THE SEED OF THE WOMAN SHALL bruise the serpent’s head.”

You know as well as I do that there is no such thing as “seed of a woman.” All seed is masculine. There is no life in any but the male seed. So well is this fact established that in all modern races a child takes the

name of its father, because its life comes through the male parent. In the beginnings of modern biology as taught by ancient Greek philosophers, they held that the ovum was just the "soil" in which the male seed sprouted and rooted as it started to grow. Their conception was true to this extent, the SEED IS ALWAYS IN THE MASCULINE LINE and never in the feminine. But here is a statement made that when this promised Redeemer comes, He will be "seed of a woman." That will be a biological miracle, as He will have no earthly father. To have a child born which could be scientifically spoken of as the seed of its mother would be contrary to the known laws and facts of biology. This then, is the reason for claiming Genesis 3:15 as the first promise of a virgin birth. Certainly Eve understood this to be a promise of a Saviour and a Redeemer, for when her first son was born she exclaimed in gladness, "See, I have gotten 'The Man' from God."

THE STUDENT'S DILEMMA

The dilemma that the student of today faces is simply this: If Jesus Christ was not born of a virgin then we still look for a coming Saviour, or: Almighty God lied! Certainly, when the Saviour comes He must be born of a virgin! For there are other verses prophetic of the virgin birth which sustain and expand the original promise in Genesis 3:15.

We will look now at the most assailed verse in the Old Testament, Isaiah 7:14, ". . . Behold, a virgin shall conceive, and bear a son, and shall call His name Immanuel." This verse has been "discussed" and also

"cussed" from every angle, but the commonest objection to it is that it does not ~~mean~~ the Lord Jesus or His day and time. Some say this promise was made to Ahaz, to be fulfilled in his day and time. Note the plain language of the context. Ahaz rejects God's offer, and refuses to accept a sign. God then turns away from Ahaz—and speaks to the House of David!—The promise then, is not to Ahaz—but Israel. When this virgin born child arrived, He was to be a "sign" to the nation. He was to be called "God is with us" and was to be the Messiah. He would come to establish the Davidic Covenant—and would have Divine power, resulting from His supernatural origin.

The Jews understood this, for in John 7:27 we read that the Jews were concerned in their own minds and hearts concerning Christ, and they asked one another, "Can this indeed be the Christ?" But the objection was "No, for when the Christ comes no ~~man~~ will know from whence He is come, but we know this man's father and mother." Has there ever been a man who walked this earth in whom the Deity was so incarnate that man called him 'God in the flesh?' Just One! and that one Man was born through a virgin mother.

The promise in Isaiah 7:14 stands not alone in the Scripture and the prophetic utterances of the ancient Book. In Jeremiah 31:22 we read, "How long wilt thou go hither and thither, Oh, thou backsliding daughter? Behold, Jehovah has created a new thing in the earth, a woman shall encompass a man." That is to say that a woman alone and unaided shall bring forth a man. All men from Adam to Jeremiah and from Jeremiah since have been born of women, but they were encompassed by their father in the flesh! Here, then,

is the promise of a biological miracle, that a man shall be born of a woman unaided by a man!

THE BURNING QUESTION

The question you must settle in your own mind and heart is, "Was Jesus Christ that Man?" I think we are living far enough from the event of the advent of the Christ to sit down and coolly and calmly consider the evidence which will help us make an intelligent decision. And remember as we read together this evidence of the virgin birth of Jesus Christ that eternity depends upon the answer that our heart and our brain shall make.

THE SECOND OBJECTION

is universal belief of ancient peoples in demi gods. We cannot take time to deal in length or detail with the second objection, nor does it deserve such close analysis. Most ancient races, among them the Roman, Greek, Persian, Babylonian, Assyrian, Egyptian and Hittite peoples had these tales of men who were half god and half man. The thoughtless and unlearned are prone to class the Scriptural account of the virgin birth with these fables, saying it is a Jewish myth, comparable to the tales of other peoples. I want you to note the verse of Scripture that is the explanation of the world-wide and universal character of these myths concerning virgin births. Instead of mitigating against the truth of the virgin birth of Jesus Christ the universality of these legends and myths is an argument in favor of the common hope in all hearts that a virgin born Redeemer would come. Where did this common

hope originate? When Genesis 3:15 was spoken by the lips of God there were two people on all the face of the earth, Adam from Eve; from them has come every nation, and tribe, and tongue, and race, and clan of people. Adam and Eve told their sons and daughters this promise of the coming Saviour who would be virgin born; as they scattered abroad and peopled the earth they carried in their hearts and transmitted through their legends and their stories hope of the Coming One. As the peoples grew and multiplied, going everywhere with this same hope and ideal, the prophecy became of universal extent; and the common hope argues a common basis for belief in the virgin birth.

CHAPTER II

THE EVIDENCE CONSIDERED

No man can call himself either a thinker or student, who forms opinions or conclusions apart from credible evidence. No court of Law, no experimental laboratory, no true scientific investigation could function without evidence. What evidence have we to substantiate the claim of Christians—that their Saviour and Lord was virgin born? Some of it at least has been carefully preserved in the records, and in an orderly fashion I now purpose to examine with you the witnesses.

THE HEAVENLY WITNESS

The first witness to the virgin birth of Jesus Christ that we will consider now is an angel, whose name was Gabriel. This angel was one of the archangels of God. He dwelt before the throne of the Most High God. He knew Jesus Christ in His pre-incarnate glory and sovereignty. He was perhaps a sharer with Deity in the work of creation. He was God's messenger to men. To a woman named Mary this angel appeared and startled her with a salutation unique indeed: "Hail, thou art highly favored! The Lord is with thee." Now, Mary was greatly concerned at this peculiar salutation and asked what manner of address it might be. And the angel said unto her, "Fear not, Mary, for thou hast found favor with God. And behold, thou shalt conceive in thy womb and bring forth a Son and shalt call

His name Jesus. He shall be great and shall be called the Son of the Highest, and the Lord shall give unto Him the throne of His father David, and He shall reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of His Kingdom there shall be no end." Then Mary was deeply concerned; she asked a natural question, "How can this be possible that I give birth to a son for I have never known a man?" And the testimony of the angel continued, "The Holy Spirit shall come upon thee and the power of the Highest shall overshadow thee, wherefore also the 'Holy Thing' which is begotten shall be called the Son of God." (You know He was not to be called the 'Son of Joseph,' He was to be called the "Son of God.") And the angel departed.

WHOSE SON WAS HE?

Some time ago in a city on the Pacific coast I listened to an eloquent and earnest preacher preaching on this subject, "Was Jesus Christ the Son of Joseph and Does It Matter?" The conclusion the preacher reached was in all probability Jesus Christ was the Son of Joseph, but whether He was or not, it did not matter. Now I take a radically opposite view. According to the evidence, Jesus Christ was NOT the son of Joseph, and certainly it does matter. I want you to consider with me the testimony of Joseph himself.

THE EVIDENCE OF JOSEPH

What a man Joseph must have been! He had been picked by Almighty God to be the legal sponsor for the advent into the flesh of the Christ Who was to be the Saviour of all the world. I think we all agree that Mary was the queen among women; then Joseph must

have been as equally a man, typifying the ideal of manhood as Mary personified the sweetness and grace of womanhood. These two had been united by God in a love that was deep and lasting and real; Joseph and Mary were engaged to be married. But before the day of their wedding came, Joseph made a heart-breaking discovery. He found that the girl he loved and trusted and hoped to make his wife was about to become a mother. The Hebrew law of betrothal was a close, binding, legal contract, and it could not be broken without public action and sufficient cause. The law of Israel declared that if a woman was found guilty of adultery she should be taken out to a public place and stoned to death. Here then was the dilemma of Joseph. He was a just, a devout, a holy Jew. He wanted to keep the law, yet he loved this woman with all the power of his soul and his spirit and his heart. He knew that if he denounced her before the council she must be stoned to death. He thought she had gone astray; he thought that she had deeply wronged him; his heart was grieved, but his love was triumphant above all. He was lying awake at night trying to conceive some way to put her aside without public action, that he might save her from death and himself from disgrace. To this troubled man at night there came again this angel of God. Speaking to Joseph the angel said, "Fear not to take Mary unto thee as thy wife, for that which is conceived of her is of the Holy Spirit." And Joseph did as the angel of the Lord commanded him, and took unto him Mary as his wife; and he knew her not until she had brought forth a Son. And this Son was named Jesus. I like the testimony of this man Joseph. He says that their marriage was not consummated until after Jesus was born, and he should have known more than

any of the modern critics. He says that he was NOT the father of Jesus.

THE TESTIMONY OF MARY

The third witness is Mary, the mother of the Babe. I want you to notice the testimony of Mary's dilemma. If Joseph was not the father of Jesus and Jesus was not virgin born, then he must have been the unnamed son of his mother's sin! What calumny and shame they heap upon Mary who say that Christ was not virgin born! And what shame they heap upon the Lord Christ Jesus who say that He was not the Child of God! They say, then, that He was the shameful product of His mother's lust! A Child born of adultery! A creature of shame! Joseph, the husband of Mary was NOT the father of Jesus! Then who was? The modern critic says an "unknown, unnamed man." The Book of God says "the Holy Ghost." You take your choice between these two.

Then note again the testimony to Mary's character if Jesus Christ was not Divinely Conceived. What a woman Mary must have been if Jesus was not the Child of God, by the Holy Ghost.

We have before us a picture of some women standing under a darkening sky at the foot of the cross. And one of these women was the mother of the One Who was to suffer death on the tree. Mary had perhaps been present at the trial of Jesus. She had watched Him beaten; she saw His flesh torn with the rod, and the salt and vinegar rubbed in to make it more unbearable. She saw her Son crowned with thorns. She saw the cruelty and hatred of the mob; the physical

suffering of the Child to Whom she had given birth. Her heart broke when He fainted under the weight of the cross. And then she saw His brutal and inhuman persecutors take her naked Son, that Son that she had held in her lap and crooned to sleep—she saw them stretch Him out on the cross and drive a great spike through each hand. When this Man was a prattling Babe He played around the carpenter shop of His father Joseph. A baby playing with a hammer will often inflict some slight damage upon his tender flesh, and Mary had kissed the hand of the bruised Babe! Now she stood there and watched them as they drove the nails through those hands she loved! Every thud of the hammer stroke striking on the head of the nail struck a death knell to the bottom of her soul. Then she saw them take those tender feet, those feet she had kissed and cuddled as a babe, and crossing them, with fiendish strokes they drove a nail through those tender feet; and she said not a word. You know they crucified Jesus Christ because He said He was the Son of God, and had no father by the flesh. Certainly Mary must have known the truth! Oh, God, what a creature she must have been to stand before that awful scene knowing that Christ was not virgin born, and allow her Son to be crucified for His belief in His own heart. She was the most wretched woman that ever stood on the face of the earth! She could have cried out and told them the truth, that Christ was not virgin born, and they would have let Him go. She need only to name His father. But her lips were silent while her heart broke. She knew the truth; she could not deny His divine origin; He had no father by the flesh.

THE DOCTOR SPEAKS

Recently a Doctor; (a Doctor of Divinity, a Doctor of Law, ■ Doctor of Literature, ■ doctor of almost anything that the modern college can "doctor") took part in a certain so-called "Bible" conference out on the Pacific Coast. In the course of the conference this doctor and scholar said that Jesus Christ was in all probability the illegitimate son of Joseph! I do not feel qualified to contradict the evidence of a Doctor, but there is another Doctor who testified, too, and I want you to look now at the evidence of a Doctor named Luke.

Luke was a practicing physician, and I judge he was a good one. At any rate, we know that Luke was a successful medical practitioner. How do we know that? Well, they called him "Luke, the beloved physician." Did you ever know a Doctor to be "beloved" who buried all his patients? A Doctor is only "beloved" when he saves life, and Luke was a "beloved physician." His business was Life and Death; he dealt with birth and all those things concerning the physical aspect of birth. I do not say that Luke was the Doctor who officiated at the birth of Jesus, but he was living then and he was engaged in the practice of medicine. He got the story from the lips of Mary, and we got the story from him.

Luke, the Doctor, says that Jesus Christ was virgin born; that a biological miracle actually occurred and He had no father in the flesh. I think I would take the word of the Doctor who was living at the time Christ was born, who knew the circumstances of the case and talked with eye-witnesses, who talked with the mother,

and the husband who was the sponsor and the legal authority for Jesus Christ's presence; against the word of a Doctor by courtesy so-called, who knows nothing of the fact and who was born two thousand years later.

THE TESTIMONY OF JESUS

I recently heard another man whose exalted learning had made him wise beyond that which is written. This man said that the Lord Jesus Christ never claimed to be the Son of God. "Oh, yes," he said, "He ~~was~~ A SON of God; we are all sons of God, and in that sense He was our elder brother."

This man tells us that Jesus Christ was divine.; "Oh, yes," he says, "we are all divine. In us is the spark of divinity and you only have to blow upon it to make it burn into flame." This fellow said that Jesus was divine, but he was not Deity, that He never claimed to be the Son of God. In spite of his learning, that man is ignorant. The testimony is so plain that a wayfaring man, though a fool, cannot miss his way. I am constrained to believe that those who deny the virgin birth of Jesus Christ are either ignorant of the plain statement of the Scriptures, or they repudiate the Scriptural authority.

I want you to take the testimony of our Lord Jesus Christ. Certainly He knew about His birth above all others. He had a great deal to say on the subject of His divine origin. Will you study and analyze this closely?

Let us start with the statement in John 7:27, that they looked for a Saviour who would come, who would be the virgin born Christ. The people were concerned

over the miracles wrought by this Messiah and they said, "When the Christ shall come will He do more miracles than this man has done?" Yet in their anger and hatred of heart toward Him they sought to stone Him. Jesus said, "Many good works have I done," (referring to the miracles they had tested) "for which of these good works do you stone me?" The Jews said, "For a good work we stone thee not, but for that thou being a man maketh thyself to be the Son of God."

Then again in John 6:41: "The Jews then murmured at Him because he said, 'I am the Bread which came down out of heaven.'" "And they said, 'Is not this Jesus the Son of Joseph Whose father and mother we know? How does He now say I am come down out of heaven?'" "They certainly understood Jesus to claim that He had no father in the flesh and they said, "We know Joseph and we know Mary, how then does this man come from Heaven?"

Again in John 9:35. He repeats almost the same thing. After they had cast the man out of the temple Jesus heard that they had cast him out, and when He found the outcast He said, "Dost thou believe on the Son of God?" And the man answered, "Who is He, Lord, that I might believe?" And Jesus said unto him, "Thou hast seen Him and He it is that speaketh with thee." Now think this through. If you say to me, "Who is the Son of God?" and I say, "He is speaking to you now,"—You would go away and say, "That man is crazy; he claims that he is the Son of God." Jesus certainly claimed to be God's Son in the ~~same~~ sense of the word that you are the son or the daughter of your father. Jesus claimed to be the Son of God, and either He was, or He was a crazy, blasphemous liar.

Again in John 10:24: "Then the Jews came around about Him and said unto Him, 'How long dost thou hold us in suspense? If thou be the Christ, tell us plainly.' " Jesus answered, 'I told you and you believed not.' "

Then note John 10:29: "My Father who has given them unto me is greater than all, and no one is able to snatch them out of my Father's hand; I and the Father are one." Which "Father" did He mean? He meant the only one He had. In John 5:18 we read, "Therefore the Jews sought the more to kill Him because He not only had broken the Sabbath, but also said that God was His Father, thus making Himself equal with God."

The two important words are "His Father." These words in the Greek text are "Patera idion" and they mean "His own Father." In the same sense you are the offspring of your earthly father whose name you bear. Jesus claimed to be the Son of God. Joseph was His STEP-father; His "own" Father ~~was~~ God.

My two sons were riding together in the machine on the way to Sunday-school. The oldest boy was earning a new Testament by reciting fifty Scripture verses. A count was made, and the discovery was made that he needed one more. This verse was chosen, "I and my Father are One." He learned the verse on the way to class—but the smaller one learned it also, from the constant repetition. When the older boy finished reciting his verses, the small fellow said, "I know one!" Invited to rise and repeat it, he electrified them all by reciting—"Me and my daddy are one, too!"

Out of the mouths of Babies and infants the truth

is proclaimed. He never heard of "patera idion"—but he had the idea. "I and My Father ~~are~~ one."

Let us go into this query, "Who was this Father that Jesus talked about?" Was it Joseph? It could not be, because He said, "My Father Who is greater than all has given them unto Me; I and the Father are one." Jesus and God were one in substance; one in essence; one in personality; one in power;—"I and the Father are ONE." You can get nothing out of that but that Jesus Christ claimed that He was the Son of God and Deity incarnate in the flesh. At least the Jews so understood Him, for in the thirty-sixth verse, of this same chapter of John they say, "Thou blasphemest because thou sayest, 'I am the Son of God.'"

Note further, in John 8:24 Jesus said to the Jews who listened to His message, "I said therefore unto you that ye shall die in your sins, for except ye believe that I am, ye shall die in your sins." Astounded the Jews fell away from before Him and cried, "Who art thou?" And Jesus said unto them, 'Even that which I have also spoken unto you from the beginning.' " Then look at the conversation in the thirty-ninth verse; the Jews began to cast slurs at the origin of this Man who claimed that He had no father in the flesh. "They answered and said unto Him, 'OUR FATHER is Abraham.' " Again these ancient unbelievers in the virgin birth in the forty-first verse of this same chapter say, "We were not born of fornication" (implying that He was.) Continuing further, in John 8:35 the Jews say, "Art thou then greater than our father Abraham who died, and the prophets died? Who makest thou thyself to be?" In the fifty-eighth verse Jesus answered their question: "Verily I say unto you that before

Abraham was born, I AM." And then they sought to kill Him; blasphemy had been uttered and according to their law they must kill the man who blasphemed. He had made Himself not only to be the Son of God, but the Very God of Heaven and earth!

To understand this language of the Lord Jesus Christ, it is necessary to go back to the Book of Exodus. In the third chapter of Exodus we have the account of Jehovah God speaking to Moses out of the flaming bush. After Moses had received a commission from God to become the saviour and leader of Israel, he asked a peculiar question. He said, "Behold, when I come unto the Children of Israel and shall say unto them, 'The God of your fathers has sent me unto you,' and they shall say to me, 'What is His name?' what shall I say unto them?" And God said unto Moses, "Tell them that the "I AM" has sent thee." Here is the first mention of "I am." The Jehovah-Jesus of the New Testament took to Himself this name, "I Am." Therefore, the Jews sought to kill this man who appropriated the name of omnipotent Godhood. They were stupified before the blasphemy of a man who claimed to be the VERY God who talked out of the burning bush to their leader, Moses!

(Again you remember in our discussion of the prophecy in Isaiah 7:14 that when the virgin born Messiah came He was to be called "God with us.")

Once again, when they came to arrest Jesus in the Garden of Gethsemane and they asked concerning Christ of Nazareth, Jesus called Himself by this name, Adoni, the "I AM" and they fell on their faces in wonder and awe. This Name Adoni appears more than

two thousand times in the Bible as the Name of THE LORD GOD.

THE LAST WORD

The final argument is this: At the trial of the Lord Jesus Christ His enemies, the Jews, advanced many reasons why this Man should be crucified, but their final, compelling argument ~~was~~ from the Law of Moses. "We have a law, and by the law He ought to die, because that He, being a man, maketh Himself God." For this one claim alone they nailed Him on the cross.

How in the face of this evidence can any reasoning man stand in a public place and say that Jesus Christ never claimed to be the Son of God? If you do not believe in the virgin birth of Jesus Christ, you have never studied the evidence, you are ignorant of what the Scripture says, or your heart is hardened by sin and you will not believe.

If you believe not in the virgin birth of Jesus Christ you are faced with an awful dilemma. If Jesus Christ was not the virgin born Son of God, He was a blasphemous liar, Who knew He was an illegitimate child and adopted this means of covering up His past shame. Either that, or He was a crazy maniac Who thought He was the Son of God. What do you think? Search through the Word and see—that He was in very truth all that He testified to be,—the virgin born Son of God and the Saviour of sinning men!

